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Market launches neighborhood ministry

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — For Sale: Neighborhood grocery store with declining sales, inner-city strip mall location, older neighborhood, crime abounds, building in need of repair.

Any buyers? Most people would pass on this opportunity, except for a man who had been asking God to lead him to an area to open a supermarket where he could get to know and help the people in the neighborhood.

"I believe God said, 'I want you there,' and he provided everything for us and then said, 'What are you going to do now?'" said Jim Lamb, the new owner of Community Supermarket, a grocery store located near the campus of New Orleans Seminary.

Lamb and his wife Beverly have a business philosophy different from most businessmen. They want to use their business to help others and revitalize the community around them.

As the store turns a profit, the Lambs are returning the profits to their employees, to their church, to neighborhood schools, back into the business and to their family.

Of those percentages, the family receives the smallest amount.

"If we can help our employees, the schools, the churches, our community, then we can turn the entire neighborhood around," Lamb said. "I believe that is what God wants us to do."

Pausing as his eyes became tearful, Lamb compassionately voiced concern for the neighborhood, schools, and kids who don't have the advantages they should. One of his plans is to get other merchants in the mall together and periodically provide meals for children on their way to school.

It's not just the future, though, that Lamb talks about.

The Community Supermarket already has adopted Parkview Elementary School, located a few blocks behind the Gentilly Boulevard store as one of its target schools.

Lamb is a businessman who also happens to be a Christian. His commitment to the Lord and biblical principles is apparent, but faithfully walking with God has not always been so strong, Lamb admitted.

The turning point came several years ago when Lamb and his wife turned everything over to Lord, especially their wallets. Although both were Christians and involved in a local church, it was not until they began tithing did full obedience take place in their lives.

At that moment, giving became fun, and real joy in Christ filled their lives, he recounted.



Jim Lamb

"From that point on we've been giving and giving and want to continue giving," Lamb said. "Becoming obedient was the trigger point, but once we did it, everything turned around."

Turning around a suffering grocery store and making initial strides to improve the neighborhood began last November when Lamb and his family opened the business, but changing a neighborhood takes more than one person.

"The seminary has been actively involved to see measured and substantial changes in the neighborhood around us," said Chuck Kelley, president of New Orleans Seminary and a member of the Gentilly Partnership Foundation, an organization engaging residential and commercial

resources to communicate and promote the quality and value of the area.

"The Lambs are an example of that mission," Kelley said. "Mr. and Mrs. Lamb have made a quality investment in this community and we should do everything to encourage them personally, pray for their success and give them our business."

So far everything is falling into place. The "For Sale" sign is long gone. The grand opening has occurred and what's left is a clean, safe neighborhood supermarket and a nice man, thin hair, beard, dressed in khaki pants, blue shirt, red vest and red tie with a big smile on his face and a heartfelt "thank you" coming from his lips for shopping in his store.

Feds endorse homosexual books

WASHINGTON (BP) — The federal government is distributing a book on physical and mental health care for homosexual young people to health centers and AIDS programs it funds.

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is distributing 4,000 copies of the book, "Lesbian & Gay Youth: Care & Counseling," to federally supported community and migrant health centers, as well as AIDS programs funded under the Ryan White CARE Act, a HRSA spokesperson confirmed. The books will be disseminated to more than 750 such centers and programs, according to The Washington Blade, a weekly newspaper for the homosexual community in the capital.

The book's authors are Caitlin Ryan and Donna Futterman, both lesbian health activists, The Blade reported. "Health and mental health providers need to know the questions to ask and the answers to give when working with adolescents who are questioning their sexual identity or 'coming out' as lesbian or gay. We wrote this book to save lives," Ryan said, according to The Blade.

Ryan and Futterman decided to write the book after HRSA sponsored a conference in 1994 on the health needs of homosexual adolescents, The Blade reported. The text of the book originally was published last year in a journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Kennedy tapped at WCC

Gulfshore draws 3,000

IMB earmarks \$3M

Letters to the editor

Looking back

10 years ago

A Mississippi flag flies over a church in Ada, Ohio, as a group of 20 workers from Alcorn Association install duct work, conduit, and sheetrock to a new church building. Baptists from Alabama and Kentucky put up the framing and the roof earlier.

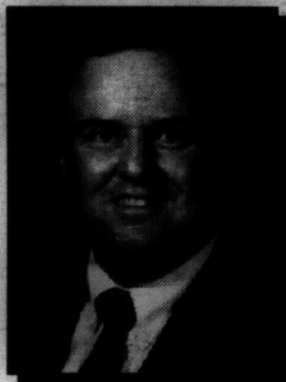
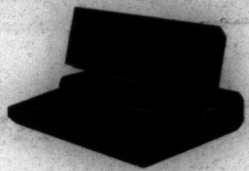
20 years ago

Cynthia and Patti Clawson highlight the program for the 1978 Mississippi Baptist Youth Night, which draws over 10,000 young people to the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson. The Clawson sisters are daughters of a Texas pastor.

50 years ago

Gordon Sansing of Booneville is guest evangelist for a revival at Houlka Church, Houlka. There are ten additions to the church, seven by profession of faith and baptism. Paul Harwood is in charge of the music. S. P. Andrews is pastor.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Hard lessons on the Internet, part two

So, you still think the Internet is a play-thing, not to be taken too seriously. You don't understand computers or how the Internet works over your regular telephone line, and you don't care to learn. All that stuff is the legerdmain of techo-nerds, anyway.

Sure, you've heard all the stories about how dangerous the Internet can be for children, but just how much harm can it do? No longer can your kid go to the friendly, concerned neighborhood store and buy pornography without adult ID, and of course all children are scrupulously kept out of R-rated movies. American culture is safe for your children, right?

Class is now in session. Today we will be studying the instructive case of Joshua Quittner, columnist for the "Techwatch" section of Time magazine.

It seems Quittner reported to his office one morning and, as usual, found on his computer quite a bit of unsolicited junk e-mail — known in the electronic world as "spam."

One bit of spam caught his eye. It was from an on-line pornography site promising live sex. "Free samples," it says, supplying a password and log-in. No harm in looking, I figure, and I click," Quittner reported in a Time column from May 1998.

Suddenly a naked woman lying on a queen-size bed appeared on his computer screen. Quittner suspected a hoax.

"I mean, how would I know if there really was someone of the other end? It could be recorded. 'Wave, if you can read this,' I type, smug as Alan Turing. She waves. I run screaming from the office," Quittner wrote.

At some point after he recomposed himself, Quittner became curious about this most unusual business. He tracked the web site to Florida, where the proprietor was only too happy to talk with him.

Quittner was told that the company bills roughly 8,000 minutes of on-line pornography each day, at \$5.95 per minute (credit card required). That's about \$300,000 per week, which translates into an annual take of over \$15,000,000.

Sure, the business has overhead like

everybody else. Exotic dancers have to be hired to "perform." There's the expense of maintaining a 22,000-square-foot "cyberbroadcast facility," Quittner pointed out.

Still, the proprietor just bought a red Mercedes-Benz and moved into a five-bedroom house, Quittner discovered.

As for the future, Quittner learned that the movers and shakers in the one-on-one live sex business see nothing but blue sky.

"I figure we've got only 15% to 20% of our potential users online. The Internet is going to take off more than anyone will believe," the proprietor told Quittner.

Among the lessons to be learned from Quittner's brief adventure into porndom is that he found this particular web site in his morning e-mail. Do you understand what that means?

It means that even though you had screening software installed on your child's computer to block his/her access to adult sites and pedophile chat rooms, pornographers have found a way around your software.

Who would have thought the smut merchants would figure out how to infiltrate your child's protected computer, circumventing your right to prevent such cultural sewage from entering your home?

One Mississippi Baptist father recently found out to his horror that they can do just that. He hit the wrong key while checking his e-mail on the family's home computer, and his child's e-mail box popped up.

The child's e-mail box was filled to overflowing with free offers from porn sites, even though the father had installed the most sophisticated screening software available. The software didn't have a provision for screening e-mail, which would be a daunting task for any computer programmer to include in a program.

Another Quittner lesson not to be ignored is the fact that not once did he have to prove his age to enter the live-sex site. That's true of most of the pornography sites on the Internet.

You can be six, 16, or 60 years of age, but

"PRAY FOR ME—
I'M TECHNOPHOBIC."



you have the same free, unregulated access.

All this goes to show, once again, the importance of being involved in the everyday lives and activities of our children. If anything, that task takes on increased importance every year.

We do not need another generation of young women accustomed to seeing their gender degraded in such awful ways. We do not need another generation of young men who believe all women lie on a queen-size bed, eagerly awaiting the chance to fulfill their every sexual desire.

What we need is a generation of parents willing to fight for their children and the sanctity of their little hearts and minds, from the halls of Congress to the rooms of our own homes.

It's time we parents asked ourselves, in the bold pronouncement of today's Christian young people, "What would Jesus do?" A quick reference to Matt. 19:14 and Luke 17:1-3 should provide a ready answer.

Class dismissed.

The week of the Fourth Sunday in July has new meaning to me.

For the second year in a row, I have been invited to preach revival services that week at Lowery Creek Church (Jones Association). For the second year in a row, I have enjoyed one of the most spiritually refreshing weeks of my life.

Harold Ishee has been interim pastor at Lowery Creek of nigh on ten years. He and his wife Dot form a ministry team that is truly appreciated at Lowery Creek.

In a genuine and unassuming way, they just love people to Jesus and to the church.

Don McQueen and his wife Kay divide their time between their farm and the music ministry at Lowery Creek. They are warm, friendly and gifted musically.

I don't know when I have thrown my head back and sung from my heart in a loud voice like I do during revival at Lowery Creek.

The music and the message of the hymns move me.

If you haven't eaten home

GUEST OPINION:



The real meaning of 'church'

By Randall W. Turner, pastor
First Church, Laurel

cooking at Lowery Creek, you are missing one of life's most delicious pleasures.

Great pride obviously goes in to the preparation and presentation of the church families' favorite recipes.

You know, you are never closer to anyone than when you are sharing a meal. Jesus' last supper with his disciples and the memorial meal that we continue to observe is lasting evidence of that reality.

The Bible teaches us to practice hospitality (Rom. 12:13). The good people of Lowery Creek do just that. My family and I were made to feel at home from the first moment we walked through the door.

The Bynum's brought me a watermelon I could hardly carry by myself.

Perry and others paid me the respect and compliment of including me in their good-natured needling.

Stan and Sharla invited me to hunt doves on opening day at their Cedar Bend Farm.

The setting reminds me of who I am and where I came from. The sweet, affectionate, generous, "salt of the earth" people remind me that church is not composed of buildings of brick and mortar and stained glass, but folks that love Jesus.

At Lowery Creek, I encounter an unusual concen-

tration of people who know and love Jesus.

News arrived in the community on Monday afternoon of revival that Robert Ramsey had fallen from a tree and broken his back.

Surgery would be required. He may never walk again. He has a wife and two small children.

I wish you could have seen that church respond. Brother Ishee and Don rushed to Jackson to be with Robert and his family.

The church was called to prayer. They asked God for Ramsey's healing, then immediately went to work putting feet to their prayers.

Their Sunday School class was assembled to sign a card that would be delivered.

Arrangements were made right away to have a fund raiser at Merchant Park to help with medical costs.

Everyone was anxious to do their part.

They have a name for that kind of thing. They call it "church."

Thank you, Lowery Creek for reminding me.

NOBTS sets bivocational music class in Jackson

August 24 begins the fifth of eight courses at seven locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

The eight courses are: (1) Song Leading; (2) Worship Planning; (3) Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; (4) Reading Music: Harmony/Melody; (5) Hymnology; (6) Music Administration/Staff Relations; (7) Class Voice; (8) Survey of Music Resources. These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches.

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two year period. Each course is independent

and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on-campus degree program. There is a one-time registration fee of \$25.00. The costs of each course is \$75.00.

"Project 25" is a cooperative effort of NOBTS, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Baptist Sunday School Board to grant \$100 for the registration fee and first course cost to the first 24 bivocational music directors who register. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

The fifth course "Hymnology" will meet once a week for two hours for eight

consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

Broadmoor Church, Jackson — beginning August 24 (7-9 p.m.), Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

First Church, Columbus — beginning August 27 (7-9 p.m.), Ed Nix, teacher.

First Church, Purvis — beginning August 24 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.), James Hayes, teacher.

East McComb Church, McComb — beginning August 24 (7-9 p.m.), Joe Elliott, teacher.

First Church, Booneville — beginning August 24 (7-9 p.m.), LuAnne Ford, teacher.

Northcrest Church, Meridian — beginning August 24 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.), Buddy McElroy, teacher.

Hernando Church,

Hernando — beginning August 24 (7-9 p.m.), Barry Tweedy, teacher. (This new location will materialize if at least 10-12 students attend.)

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state also, where 10-12 students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.

THE
SECOND
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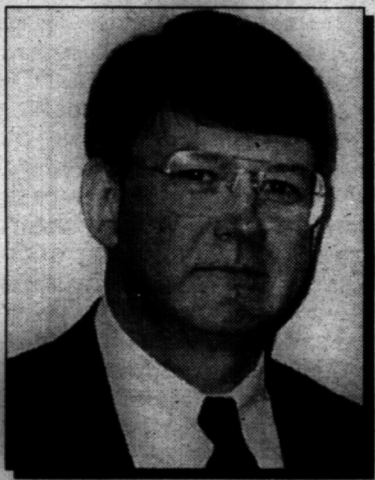
No. 27

Kennedy named to head William Carey

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The "interim" in the title of William Carey College (WCC) interim president Larry W. Kennedy was removed Aug. 6 by the Baptist-affiliated institution's board of trustees, who named him to permanently head the Hattiesburg-based school.

Kennedy, 56, the seventh WCC president, had been interim president since the Oct. 1997 departure of James W. Edwards.



Kennedy

"I pledge to our trustees, as well as our faculty, staff, alumni, students, and friends to lead the college with a spirit of integrity that will honor the heritage of this great college."

"The strength of William Carey College is its strong faculty and staff. I deeply respect the expertise and insight of these dedicated individuals, and I realize that any success we might have will be the result of all of us working together toward our common goal which is to make William Carey College an institution of academic excellence where students can grow in learning and in faith."

"For the past ten months I have attempted to lead the college by emphasizing shared responsibility, open communication, and mutual respect. I'm convinced that... we can create a learning environment that will promote and foster academic excellence."

"As I assume this position, I sincerely ask for your prayers, not only for me and my family but for our faculty and staff as we seek to make the mission statement of our college a reality for our students," Kennedy told the trustees.

J. Louis Griffin Jr., WCC board chairman and also chairman of the search committee, said a nationwide search resulted in over 30 applicants for the position.

"Finalists were selected, and following intensive interviews, a final decision was made."

"Dr. Kennedy has proven his skills in working with the administration and staff in fulfilling the mission of WCC. His reputation for integrity, honesty, and his Christian beliefs is unquestionable," Griffin pointed out.

In addition to his term as interim president, Kennedy served WCC from 1991-1998 as vice-president of church and denominational relations and as dean of the Cooper School of Missions and Biblical Studies. He also coordinated the William Carey Lectures and Parent's Day.

Kennedy was born in Louisiana and raised in Pensacola, Fla. He received a bachelor of arts in history degree from Baptist-affiliated Louisiana College in Pineville, La. (1964).

He also holds a master of theology degree from New Orleans Seminary in New Orleans (1967); a master of arts in history degree from Mississippi State University in Starkville (1970); and a Ph.D. in history from Mississippi State University (1976).

Kennedy has served as pastor and interim pastor of a number of churches in Mississippi, including:

- Mantee Church, Mantee, 1967-72.
- First Church, Amory, 1972-78.
- First Church, Laurel, 1978-91.
- Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg, 1992.
- Collins Church, Collins, 1993.
- Pleasant Grove Church, Laurel, 1994.
- First Church, Taylorsville, 1994.
- First Church, Magee, 1995.
- County Line Church, Overt, 1996.
- Rock Hill Church, Mt. Olive, 1997.
- Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, 1997.
- Mt. Zion Church, Mt. Olive, 1997.

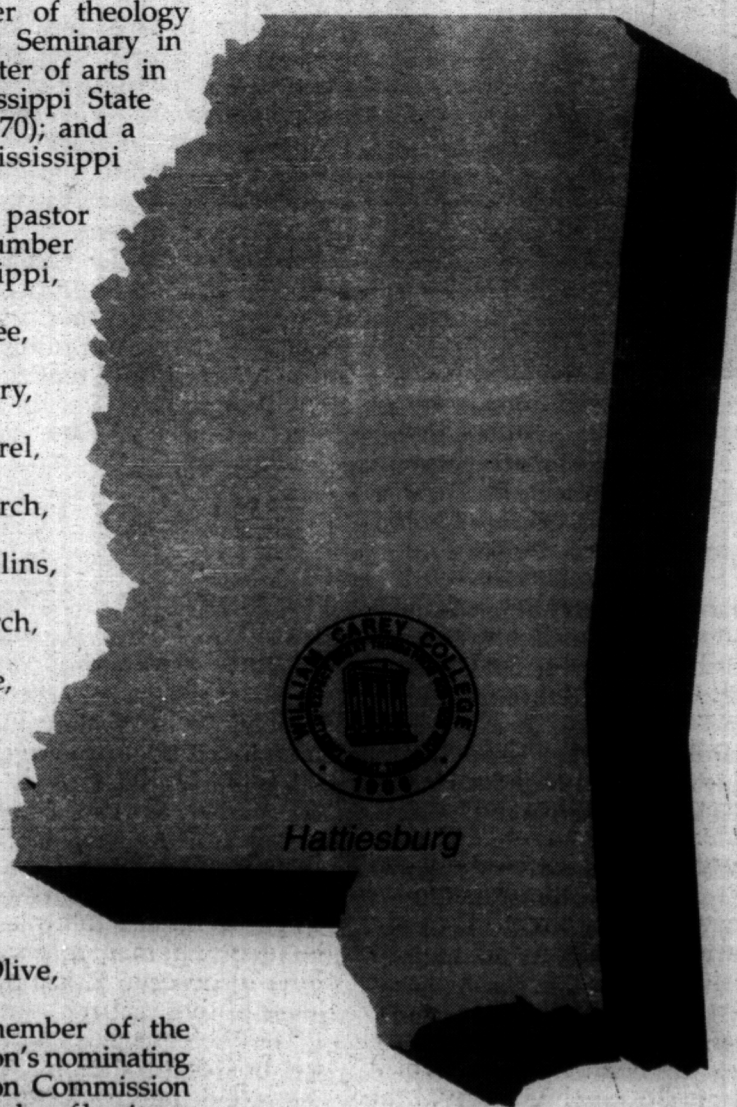
He also served as a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's nominating committee in 1974; Education Commission from 1974-79; committee on order of business from 1983-85 (chairman in 1985); and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Kennedy was a trustee of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1982-90, and in the summer of 1995 served as a visiting professor of preaching at the International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest, Hungary.

He has received an invitation from the European Baptist Convention to return in 2000 for another stint at the academy.

Kennedy has participated in mission trips to Africa, Trinidad, Venezuela, Honduras, and Hungary.

He is married to Sarah Johnson Kennedy, and they have three adult sons. The Kennedys live in Laurel.



Youth needs spotlighted at Gulfshore weeks

By Jamie Vickers
Gulfshore Assembly intern

Six weeks of youth conferences bringing in more than 3,000 high school students to Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian, gave their counselors insights as to what young people need.

"They need to understand simply — God loves us for being us, not just because we are Christians," said Chad Davis, faculty member from Columbia.

Davis was one of the 18-member faculty who served

as counselors, teachers, and confidants to the students who visited Gulfshore this summer.

Mornings were spent in Bible study and recreation time, afternoons on the beach, and evenings in worship services.

As the faculty applied the theme of the youth conferences, "Expedition: Let the Adventure Begin," they began to realize what the youth really need as they begin their journey as Christians.

Julie Connerley, faculty member from Brownsville, Tenn., said, "These youth need a challenge." Ben Skipper of Shuqulak, added, "The youth need something deeper than a fun Bible study."

The youth of today need to see and experience the things that are talked about in church, and it is important for the youth to be involved in their home churches. Niki Jacobsen of Columbus, said, "Adults don't always see the youth as an active part of the church."

"Churches need to understand that change is okay," said worship leader, Kevin Williams of Clinton. "Generation X is not impressed with the church they've seen. They want something real, concrete, and in-your-face, not the traditional ideas."

In order for the youth of Mississippi to become a more spiritually nature and active part of the church, the adults must show passion for what they believe. Kelly Wheat of Prentiss said, "It takes youth seeing the excitement of knowing Christ to inspire the youth to grow as Christians."

Jacobsen said, "Support from the church is important," Clay Stegall of Pontotoc added, "Many adults, youth ministers, and parents don't realize the effect they have on youth."

By setting examples, adults



GULFSHORE FACULTY — 1998 Summer Youth Conference faculty members for Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian, include: (left to right) are Front: Reid Vance, NOBTS; Ashley Moseley, MC; John Maxey, Amory; Chad Davis, WC; Kelly Wheat, MSU; Josh Brewer, MC;

Second: Robin Reed, Hattiesburg; Jennifer Etheridge, MSU; Karrah Goar, MC; Allison Trimm, MC; Allison Lambert, Carriere; Jency Plunkett, MSU; Jessica Shields, MC.

Back: Kevin Williams, worship leader; Julie Connerley, MSU; Elizabeth Didlake, MC; Matt Murphy, MC; Ben Skipper, MSU; Niki Jacobsen, USM; Clay Stegall, NOBTS.

can cultivate passion in the youth. "Examples are set through relationships with the kids," said Skipper. "They need to see it up close. You have to love them, or they won't see the example."

Allison Lambert of New Orleans said, "Love and acceptance are essential in ministering to youth. So what if they have a different set of clothes or words or listen to different music."

Williams said, Jesus loved on people, and that is why people followed him.

Ashley Moseley of Magee added, "The youth do not always need someone to preach to them, but someone to have a friendship and relationship with."

Mississippi's Christian youth need to see adults with a passion for what they believe, and the youth need to learn about love and relationships,

faculty members agreed.

"It's a love relationship," said Davis. "I think a lot of youth see their relationship with God as a group thing when it is really just you and God. He loves them and they grow to love him."

If adults will take the initiative to show their passion for a Christian life and their love for the youth, Mississippi's youth will gain a better understanding of their own journey as Christians.

"As the youth grow as Christians, they will have the passion and desire to explore the depths of Christianity," said Davis. "What we need to do is teach them the first steps of falling in love with God."

(Vickers, a student at Mississippi State University in Starkville, served this summer as a public relations intern at Gulfshore Assembly.)



GULFSHORE STAFFERS — 1998 Summer staff members at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, include: (left to right) Front: Elizabeth Blake, MSU; Melissa Lawson, MC; Sharon Strong, MC; Leigh Anne Lubiani, MSU; Holly Smith, MC. Second: Donna Gladney, MC; Carrie Patterson, MSU; Jay Thomason, MC; Jill Harrington, USM. Third: Andrew Strehlow, Co-Lin; Christy Cone, JCJC; Juanita Stahl, DSU.

Fourth: Deedre Walsh, teacher, Parklane Academy; Robin Davis, JCJC; Fifth: Jeri Ann Burlison, Southwest Baptist University; Gretchen Price, Southwest MCC; Melissa McMorris, Southwest MCC; Tara Clark, MDCC. Sixth: Tamara Canty, DSU; Amanda Reeves, Co-Lin; Heather Manning, MC.

Seventh: Billie Crawford, PRCC; Lindsay Clark, JCJC; Susan Pearson, MC; Pamela Coker, New Augusta. Eighth: Monika Halle, USM; Lana Bull, MSU; Dana Dykes, MC; Jason Coker, Yale Divinity School. Ninth: Shonta Craft, Hinds CC.

Tenth: Chirstina Hubbard, MSU; Rebecca Barnett, MC; Andi Agnew, MC. Eleventh: Todd Case, Co-Lin; Heather Duke, William Carey; Sunshine Foy, WC; April Moore, Southwest MCC. Twelfth: Rande Barnett, MC; Kim Smith, Southwestern Baptist Seminary; Dustin Long, MDCC.

Thirteenth: Kerri Holley, MSU; Ken Fender, WC; Mary Ann England, MUW. Fourteenth: Angie England, USM. Fifteenth: Jon Caranna, MC; Ted Dewett, MSU; Susan Irby, USM.

Sixteenth: Kyle Thompson, MC; Suzanne Smith, Millport, AL; Chad Davis, WC. Seventeenth: Jay Henry, Northwest CC; Nathan Schimmel, UM; Jody Hawkins, MSU. Eighteenth: Frank Simmons, camp manager; Ryan Welborn, USM; Bobby Bass, MSU.

Jericho leaves legacy of innovation

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — As the last session of Jericho '98 drew to a close at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center the morning of July 31, it also marked the end of something much bigger. After 10 years, Jericho itself — which broke new ground both in its inter-agency focus and innovative methods for making missions come alive — is being retired.

For many regular participants, there is an element of loss. But there also is an appreciation of its contribution, according to the current chairman of the Jericho steering committee — and a realization that openness to new approaches actually fits in well with the Jericho philosophy.

"It was strictly a trial thing, recognizing that this approach would probably run its course and would no longer be the hot focus that it needed to be," said Marshall Walker, corporate events planning specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly the Sunday School Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

"When it started it was innovative, but times have changed so much it is time to refocus and come up with something new that is innovative for this day," he said.

Officials of the mission boards are working on plans for new missions-awareness weeks for next summer and beyond.

Jericho was developed as a replacement in some respects to Foreign Missions Week, an emphasis on international missions sponsored by the former Foreign Mission Board (now International Mission Board), according to Walker and Kenny Rains, who served on the original steering committee as a representative of the SBC's former Brotherhood Commission.

Rains is now manager of missions opportunities and events for the North American Mission Board (created in the SBC restructuring which merged the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood and Radio and Television Commission).

Jones Association lauded for special retreat

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — When it comes to encouraging fellowship and spiritual growth among church staff members and their families, one Southern Baptist association in Mississippi is putting its money where its mouth is.

Thirty-six ministers and their wives from the Jones County Association in Laurel, were in Nashville, Tenn., July 20-23 for a personal enrichment retreat at LifeWay Christian Resources (formerly the Sunday School Board) of the Southern Baptist Convention.

LifeWay has been conducting similar events for decades, but officials say this is the first time the content and schedule were customized to fit the needs of a single association. It's also the first time the local association has picked up the tab.

Jones Association, based in Laurel, contributed \$7,500 toward retreat expenses, allowing many ministers to attend who otherwise would have been unable to afford such a trip.

"We consider it an investment, not an expense," Allan Nix, director of missions, explained. "We believe these

kind of events will have a positive impact on our ministers and, as a result, on our churches."

The Jones Association retreat — which included sessions on physical, intellectual, and spiritual well-being; marriage enrichment; responding to conflict and other topics — was coordinated and staffed by LeaderCare.

A ministry of LifeWay's pastor-staff leadership department, LeaderCare provides a network of personal development help for ministers as well as resources for crisis prevention, intervention and restoration.

"I've never encountered this particular philosophy of ministry on the local association level," LeaderCare consultant Norris Smith said.

"This group's focus on the personal and spiritual development of its ministers and their families is exactly what we're trying to encourage on a national level through LeaderCare.

If every Southern Baptist association in America followed this model, it would have an incredible impact on the spiritual health of our churches."

This isn't the first time Jones Association has provided funds aimed at helping ministers grow in their spiritual walk.

According to Nix, the association's commitment to the spiritual development of its ministerial family actually began five years ago.

"God began to build the foundation for fellowship and mutual support in the midst of preparation for an area-wide crusade in the spring of 1993," Nix said.

"Anonymous attempts to discredit the evangelist, intended to derail and even cancel the crusade effort, actually served to strengthen ties among the pastors in the association."

Later that year, a group of 25 ministers attended a spiritual renewal session at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

"Experiences shared at the conference and in travel together helped to establish and deepen relationships with one another," Nix said.

"Bonds of trust were forged. An after-service prayer meeting kindled a spark of enthusiasm and expectancy that has taken place since then," he said.

After their return from Ridgecrest, four groups of ministers began meeting on Wednesday mornings to pray and study the "Experiencing God" discipleship course.

Next, the association began an intensive strategic planning process "to keep us focused and intentional in our activities," Nix said.

At the heart of the planning was answering the question, "What has God called the Jones County Baptist Association to be and do as a fellowship of churches?"

In October 1995, a strategic plan with a purpose statement and the three following objectives were adopted: 1) genuine spirituality, 2) skills development and 3) personal growth.

"Our objective on genuine spirituality has been a primary catalyst in helping ministers experience spiritual growth and express mutual support for each other," Nix said.

"The Bible describes this joint participation and partnership as 'koinonia.'"

Jones Association encouraged this biblical partnership through annual retreats undergirded by the financial support of the association.

For example, in the spring of 1996 the association appropriated \$10,000 to cover the on-site expenses for ministers and wives to attend a weeklong Experiencing God in revival national conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

Upon returning from Glorieta, the minister's wives formed a fellowship organization known as "Sharing The Call." The group provides support and encouragement to one another through regular meetings.

"This journey has allowed a number of God's servants to experience spiritual growth, fellowship, and mutual support in genuine and credible ways," Nix said.

The effect of the commitment to koinonia may best be summed up by Tommy Mangum, pastor of First Church, Ovet.

"I'm rich to be in an association like this. It's unusual to be able to laugh and learn and pray with these other ministers the way we do. I hope we never lose this unique approach," he said.

Smith said LeaderCare is open to providing similar "customized" enrichment and training events for local associations.

Church leaders can contact Smith by phone at (615) 251-2084 in Nashville or via e-mail at nsmith@lifeway.com.

For non-emergency LeaderCare services (such as career assessment, personal development resources, and wellness information) call (615) 251-2265. For crisis intervention (e.g. mediation, ministry renewal, restoration and career transition), call toll-free 1-888-789-1911.

Missionary robbery thwarted

OLANCHO, Honduras (BP) — Rosalie Jones doesn't complain about her husband's driving anymore.

Rosalie, and her husband, Sam, both Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries from Texas, work in the mountain areas of eastern Honduras. They travel to remote villages showing the "Jesus" film. Many who had never heard the gospel have come to Christ through their ministry.

Word of salvation has spread throughout the mountains so quickly that Jones has received more requests than he can fill to visit different villages. In the past, he had to load the film, projector, generator and projection screen onto mules and hike several hours into the areas. Then the couple received a four-wheel-drive vehicle that cut the trips to 20 minutes.

After working in one village, the Joneses started their descent down a twisting dirt road after midnight. "Rosalie complained about my faster-than-usual driving, especially on the dangerous curves," he recalled. Nonetheless, out of stubbornness — or divine guidance — Jones careened onward at a high rate of speed.

Suddenly, as the couple rounded a steep curve, they spotted six heavily armed bandits dressed in camouflage and ski masks at the side of the road. The speeding vehicle took the bandits by surprise. As they rushed into the road waving their arms for Jones to stop, he sped past, missing them by inches.

The Joneses had been warned by police a few days before that a gang of bandits was operating on the road. Passing the gang, the Joneses braced for the shots they knew would come.

"There were none as we sped away. Needless to say, Rosalie said nothing about my speed the rest of the way down the mountain," Jones said.

"We believe it is because of the faithfulness of the many people who pray for us that our lives were spared."

AIDS sufferer suffers church rejection

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Many Christians still have a lot to learn when it comes to dealing with AIDS, according to a woman with the disease who faced rejection at her church several years ago.

Through awareness and education efforts designed to confront the issue before it becomes a problem, however, she said fear and distrust can be replaced by compassionate ministry and support.

Ann Hummert of St. Louis shared her story during "Jericho '98: A Missions Festival to Change Your World" at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center July 24-27.

Hummert said she noticed in 1990 she was not recovering from cold and flu viruses as easily, and testing revealed that a gang rape three years earlier had left her infected with the HIV virus that causes AIDS. The news was devastating.

"I have never felt so alone, so horribly, unbelievably alone," she said. "I could be in a crowd of people and felt like I was the only one."

Like many would do in the same situation, she asked her Sunday School class to pray with her. The class also promised to keep her condition confidential, but the promise did not hold for long.

Two weeks later, as she was sitting in a pew in church when a man argued with his wife about where they should sit, finally explaining why they could not sit near Hummert in their usual spot.

"He points to me, and he says in a voice loud enough for our whole sanctuary to hear, 'That woman has AIDS.' And the secret was out. ... Somebody in my class had betrayed my confidence," she said. "I felt like I had no one else I could trust. I walked out of that church in tears, devastated that someone could let me down."

Later, she went to her pastor and suggested that an AIDS awareness presentation might be of value to the congregation, and she gave him a stack of information and a contact. The pastor agreed it would be a good idea, she said, but nothing was ever done. She eventually talked with him about the issue again. It was then that



Hummert

she realized the reaction in the church sanctuary was not an isolated case.

"He said, 'You know, Ann, you have to expect reactions like the one you got.' I thought, 'Since when do I have to expect reactions like that from my church family?'" she said.

"Even though the words were not voiced clearly, I felt him saying to me, 'I think you'd be happier if you found another church.' And I knew it was him who would be happier if I would find another church. But what could I do? I could not stay in a church where they would not even try to understand me."

For two years she could not bring herself to go into a church. Then a friend who also had AIDS told her about a church where she could be accepted.

She began attending Hanley Road Church in St. Louis, and finally she worked up the courage to allow the pastor to share her story at a Wednesday night prayer meeting. This time, the response was different.

"One of our elderly deacons stood up in the back of room and said, 'Honey, if you think you're going anywhere you're nuts. You're going to stay right here where we can take care of you.' I knew I was home."

"I belong to a church where it takes me 40 minutes to walk down a hallway because I get mobbed by kids running up to hug me. ... That's the kind of church God wants us to be."

Since that time, Hummert said she has decided to make at least some good come from her condition by using it as a springboard for educating others about AIDS and the needs of those living with the disease.

"I keep hearing AIDS is a gay disease," she said. "Granted, it started in the gay population. But I get frustrated when I hear people say they get it because they deserve it. Even those who get AIDS from a gay lifestyle don't deserve it."

"But, praise God, I'm not afraid of it anymore," she said. "I've still got things I want to do on this side, but I'm ready. I know where I'm going."

For further information on dealing with AIDS in the church, contact Fred and Lavada Loper, national medical missionaries for the North American Mission Board, at (405) 528-7688.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



Youth and adults from Enterprise Church, Enterprise, recently completed a mission trip to Westside Baptist Chapel, New Iberia, La., where they conducted Vacation Bible School. Pictured (sitting, from left) are Jonathan Bullock, Krystal Harper, Kelly Melton, Keever Gartman, Beth Moore, and Lisa Cothorn; (standing) Blake Chancelor, Carl McNeil, Darlene Cothorn, Lance Melton, Steven Cothorn, Bobbye Taylor, Mickey Taylor, Betty Purvis, Shannon Davis, summer youth minister, and Richard Cothorn, pastor.

Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames will be presented at 7 p.m. on Aug. 30, Aug. 31, and Sept. 1 at Greenwood Civic Center, Greenwood. For more information contact the Leflore County Baptist Association at (601) 453-9408.

First Church, Laurel, will host the **Greenes of Boone, N. C., Mark Lanier of Nashville, Tenn.,** and other groups in concert on Aug. 29 at 7 p.m.

Trinity Church, Pearl, will sponsor a gospel concert on Aug. 22 at 7 p.m. For more information call (601) 939-6444.

Seirra, contemporary Christian music trio, will perform at Country Woods Church, Jackson, on Aug. 16 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will also feature music by Greg Long and newcomer Nicole Leonti. For ticket information, call (601) 371-7955.

Broadmoor Church, Jackson, worship ministry will present "GOD for US" on Aug. 21 at 7 p.m. and Aug. 23 at 10 a.m. Tickets (free) are required for Friday night presentation only. For more information, call (601) 362-0305. Jim Futral is pastor. Mike Harland is worship leader.

First Church, Stonewall, will hold a book signing for the book "Sollie" by Sollie I. Smith, on Aug. 23 at 2 p.m.

Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, will celebrate its 90th anniversary on Aug. 16, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Noon meal will be served following services. Guest speaker is Jerry Henderson. For more information call (601) 583-1743.

Michael Combs will be in concert at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, Aug. 16 at 6 p.m.



Rose Hill, Smith County, recently held ground breaking services for a new church building. Building committee (pictured from left) are Bill Myatt, chairman; Bonnie Harper; Dwight Ingram; Mike Middleton; Alice Meadows; Gerald Garner; W. D. Sullivan; Junior Baar; and James Maddox, pastor.



Cason Church, Nettleton, RAs and leaders traveled to Cumberland Caverns, Tenn., June 19 and 20. They took the Wild Tour and spent the night in sleeping bags in the caves.

Run for the Son 5K Run/Walk and 1 Mile Fun Run, sponsored by First Church, Jackson, will be held Saturday, Aug. 15, at 8 a.m. Special guest will be Jim Ryun, former world record holder in the 1 mile for nine years. The fees are \$12, pre-registration; \$15, race day; \$32, pre-registration family maximum; \$35 family maximum race day. For more information contact Tim Nabors at (601) 949-1945.



Fairfield Church, Moselle, celebrated its 100th anniversary on July 12. Talmadge E. Smith, director of missions for Lincoln Association, presented Ricky Trull, pastor, with a certificate commemorating 100 years of service from the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. Pictured (from left) are Trull and Smith.

STAFF CHANGES

Parkhill Church, Jackson, has called **Gary A. White** as pastor effective July 19. A native of Jackson, White received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Kilmichael Church.

Jonathan Kittrell has been called as minister of education and senior adults at First Church, Bogalusa, La., effective Feb. 22. He previously served as



Kittrell

associate pastor and minister of music at Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, and for two years as intern Baptist Student Union director at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Perkinston. He is completing his requirements for the doctor of philosophy degree at New Orleans Seminary.

Sammy J. McDonald III, has resigned as associate pastor of Palestine Church, Raymond. He is available for pulpit supply, interim and full-time pastorates, revivals, conferences, and concerts. McDonald is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and Evangelical Christian University. He is affiliated with Harmony Church, Crystal Springs. McDonald may be contacted at (601) 845-1792 or write to 102 Moncure Road, Florence, MS 39073.

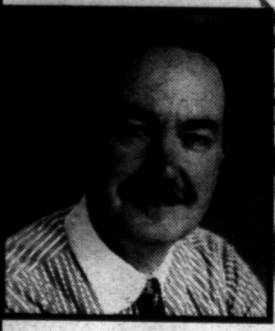
Border Springs Church, Caledonia, has called **Glen Edmonds** as pastor, effective May 27. Edmonds previously pastored at Industrial City Church, Hueytown, Ala. for 10 years. This is his first time to serve in Mississippi since 1976.

Edmonds



Edmonds

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\$3M approved for IMB special mobilization

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The International Mission Board (IMB) appropriated \$3 million to fund the first three years of a program enabling key Southern Baptist leaders to participate in hands-on overseas missions.

In an action during their July meeting in Richmond, Va., IMB trustees approved a plan to provide limited financial support to pastors, directors of missions, seminary students and ministers of college students to go overseas on their first volunteer missions trip.

The plan, called the "Mobilization Assistance Program," grew out of research and statistics showing dramatic escalation in commitments to overseas service, receipts to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and prayers for overseas mission work among those who go overseas on volunteer mission trips.

An appointment service in conjunction with the trustee meeting illustrated this point. The vast majority of the 53 new career missionaries testified of prior overseas missions experience.

Mobilization funds will be available only for "IMB field-generated projects" to "participating members of Southern Baptist churches" who have

"not been overseas on any mission projects." The program will pay one-third, up to a maximum of \$800, of the cost of going on the volunteer project.

Half of the funds will be made available to active pastors and directors of missions. Another 30% would be made available to full-time seminary students

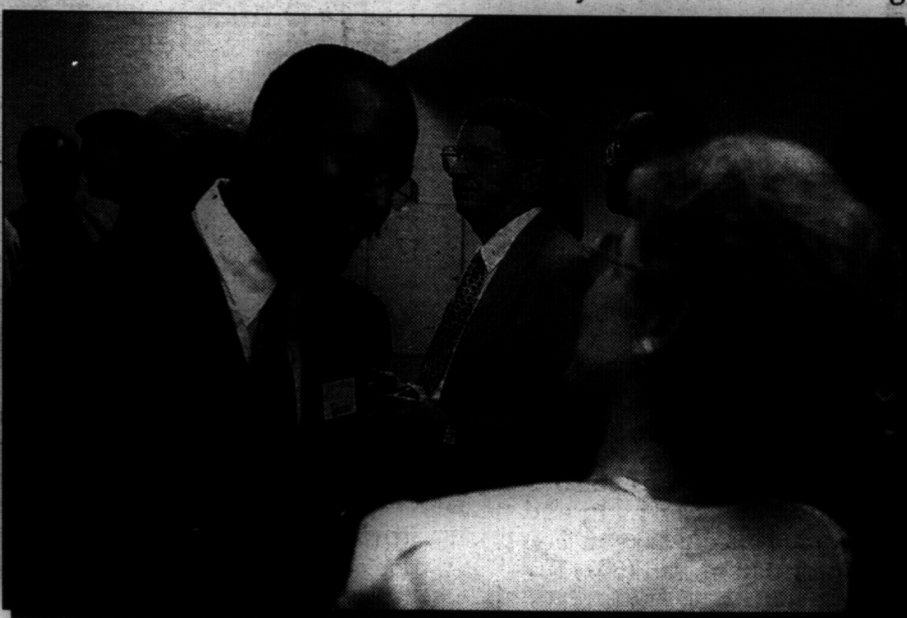
and 20% for ministers of college students. Any funds remaining from the 50% allocated for seminary students and ministers of college students will supplement the expenses of college students serving overseas for eight weeks or longer.

In other action during their meeting, trustees registered a concern that the percentage of funds the IMB receives through the SBC executive committee from Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, remains the same as it was before the convention's downsizing two years ago.

IMB president Jerry Rankin expressed concern "with the tendency to bring everything under the Great Commission umbrella and diminish our denominational thrust toward global evangelism and discipling the nations."

In his report to the trustees, Rankin said the IMB has entered "a new era of missions advance, responding to God's leadership and cooperating with the Holy Spirit to reach the unreached and to harvest the harvestable."

As an indication, he said the IMB is poised for its "sixth consecutive year of record appointments."



APPOINTED TO PERU — Quentin Roberts (left) is greeted during a reception honoring him and 52 other career missionaries appointed in conjunction with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board trustees' July 20-22 meeting in Richmond, Va. Roberts and his wife, Gina, will work in Peru. He has been a church planter apprentice in Washington, D.C., with the North American Mission Board, and she has been a child and family center director. (BP photo by Daniel Edwards)



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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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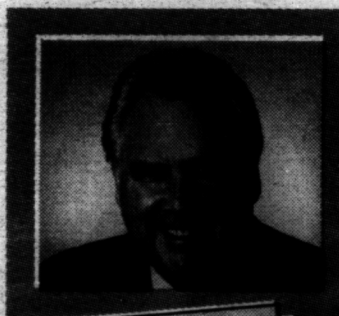
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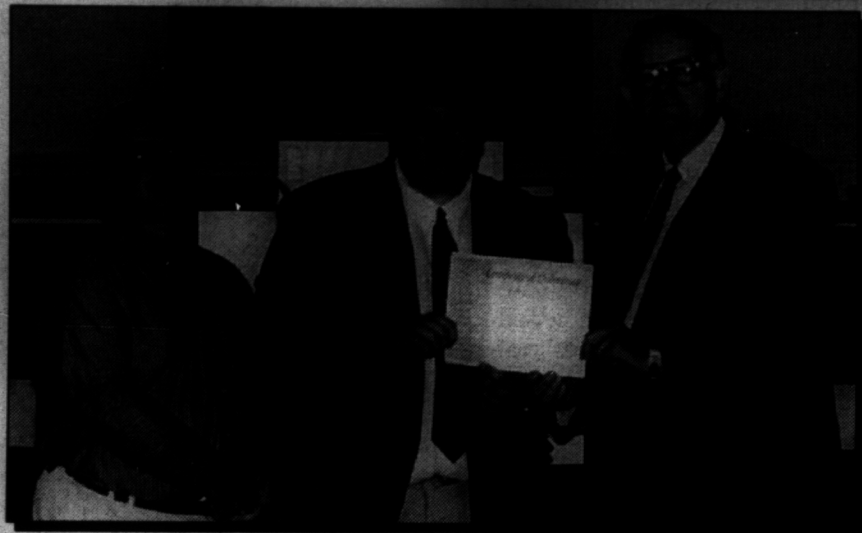
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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Joseph A. "Jody" Huerta was recently ordained to the ministry by First Church of Boyle. He is the son of Debbie Huerta of Cleveland and Joe Huerta of Texas. Huerta has been serving as a summer missionary through the Baptist Student Union for the last two years. Pictured (from left) are David Baker, chairman of the Board of Deacons, Huerta, and Joseph Anderson, pastor.

Victor R. Vaughn Sr. and his wife Joyce were recognized by the congregation of

Oak Grove Church, Scott Association, on July 26 in observance of his 25th anniversary as pastor. The Vaughns received a monetary gift in appreciation of their contributions to the church and community.

Malcolm Lewis, pastor of Northcrest Church, Meridian, received a honorary doctor of divinity degree from Southern Baptist School for Biblical Studies of Jacksonville, Fla., at a special service at Northcrest Church during the morning service on Aug. 9. Lewis went to Northcrest Church in 1984 with the church membership of 155 and it has now increased to more than 2,500.

Sybil Gray Huffstatler is retiring after over 30 years of ministry as church pianist at Carriage Hills Church, Southaven. She was honored at her church on July 5. Huffstatler was born in Pelahatchie. Her father was a singing school teacher who used shaped notes to teach students to read music and it is from him that she learned the most about music. She started playing and singing in country churches when she was 12 years old. In addition to playing piano for the church, Huffstatler has taught Sunday School and served on the



Gray and Huffstatler

executive board of the Woman's Missionary Union. Pictured with Huffstatler is her son Pat Gray.

REVIVAL DATES

Rose Hill (Smith): Aug. 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on grounds, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; David Garner, evangelist; Gene Young, music; James Maddox, pastor.

Palestine, Raymond: Aug. 23-26; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. with Gene Keen, former pastor of Palestine, preaching for homecoming morning service, covered dish begins at 12:30 p.m., revival starts Sunday at 7 p.m. with John Ward preaching; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m., Jerry File, pastor.

Paul, Scobey: Aug. 24-26; 7 p.m.; Randy Sharp, Scobey, evangelist; Donnie Bain, pastor.

Macedonia, Louisville: Aug. 23-26; 7 p.m.; Gary Jackson, evangelist; Teresa Ward, music; Debbie Hanna, pianist; Arnold Davis, pastor.

High Hill (Neshoba): Aug. 16-18; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Hueston Adkins, Sylvarena, evangelist; Welton Madden, music; Ray Files, pastor.

Star, Star: Aug. 23-26; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Chuck Hampton, evangelist; Jim Lott, music.

Bethany, Bay Springs: Aug. 17-19; 7 p.m.; different speakers each service; Eddie M. Brady, pastor.

Philipp (North Central): Aug. 30-Sept. 2; Sunday, worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gary Reichenbach, Isola, evangelist; Wilton Neal, North Carrollton Church, music; Thomas Bruce, pastor.

Rocky Point, Carthage: Aug. 16-19; Gary Jackson, Sturgis, evangelist; Lita Moore, Carthage, music; William Wright, pastor.

Blythe Creek (Choctaw): Aug. 23-26; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish lunch in fellowship hall, and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenneth Moore, Starkville, evangelist; Jeff Chamblee, Tupelo; Danny Irvin, pastor.

First Church of Sand Hill, Richton: Aug. 16-19; Sunday, 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Boone, Agricola, evangelist; Randy Boone, Quitman, music; Mike Jemison, pastor.

Lone Star, Collins: Aug. 20-23; Thu-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Beverly Davis, pianist; Madalyn Easterling, music; Danny Berry, evangelist; L. C. Anthony, interim pastor.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

The Communications Department at Mississippi College, along with campus stations WHJT and Alive 93.5 were recently honored with a host of awards from the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters. First place (gold) and second place (silver) awards were won in 17 categories.

Mississippi College has received another large gift as a part of the \$80 million New Dawn Campaign launched in

November 1997. This time, it is a \$600,000 gift from the W. M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles. Howell Todd, president, said that the Keck gift would be utilized in the construction of the new 34,000 square foot \$6 million Mathematics/Computer Science/Chemistry facility now underway. Todd said the Keck gift brings the total gifts to the five year \$80 million New Dawn Campaign to more than \$67 million in only 21 months.

VBS RESULTS



Amity, Sparta: six children saved in Vacation Bible School; Gary Roberson, pastor.

Border Springs, Caledonia: June 1-5; 128 children with an average of 93 nightly; two decisions made to accept Jesus and several rededications; Glen Edmonds, pastor.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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SEEKING PASTOR

Editor:

The East Bavaria Southern Baptist Church, a congregation of about 40 people, mostly military and Department of Defense civilians is in need of a pastor. The church is near the town of Weiden, in the south-east corner of Germany approximately 50 miles north of Nuremberg, Germany. Our church is affiliated with the European Baptist Convention (English Language) and is founded on the principles and doctrines of the Southern Baptist Convention. If God is leading you to pastor in a mission setting, please contact:

Greg Schaefer
CMR 415 BOX 4327
APO AE 09114

DONATING HYMNALS

Editor:

Can anyone use approximately 85 Baptist Hymnals edited by Walter Hines Sims, 1956 edition? Pages are good condition. Need new binding. Contact Beulah Baptist Church, P. O. Box 629, Lexington, MS 39095 or call (601) 834-4526 or 834-2400.

Leebeth Gilmore
Lexington

N.E. STUDENTS SOUGHT

Editor:

Are there students from your state who will be enrolling in one of the many universities in New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont)? The Baptist Convention of New England serves these six states and has ministry on many of the campuses.

If any of your readers have family, friends, or fellow church members who are coming to college in New England, we would like to know who they are and how to contact them. We would be happy to meet them at airports or train stations, and help them in any way. Please send information to: Collegiate Ministries, Baptist Convention of New England, 5 Oak Avenue,

Northborough, MA 01532.
Telephone: (508)393-6013.

We will ensure that someone is in touch with them immediately. Thank you, and remember to pray for collegiate ministries in this area.

John Ramirez, Collegiate Min.
Baptist Conv. of New England
Northborough, MA

VELCRO CLARIFICATION

Editor:

VELCRO USA Inc. (VUSA), has become aware of an article which recently appeared in your publication and contained a reference to either "Velcro wall," "Velcro suit," "Velcro jumping" or a related term.

VUSA cannot confirm or deny whether a particular sponsor actually used genuine VELCRO brand hook and loop fasteners for its wall jumping activities.

However, VUSA can confirm that it did not sell its hook and loop product to such a sponsor with the foreknowledge that it would be used in this manner. It is VUSA's corporate policy not to sell hook and loop materials to persons who intend to use the product in connection with wall jumping or similar activities.

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Pamela J. Carter
Velcro Group Corporation
Manchester, NH

Editor's note: The Baptist Record apologizes and expresses regret for the use of the "VELCRO" trademark.

BEWARE ALLIANCES

Editor:

Thomas Jefferson once stated that the price of freedom was eternal vigilance.

We may adopt this axiom and apply it to the church by saying the price of orthodoxy (conformity to the accepted doctrines of Christianity) is eternal vigilance.

For the past two decades, the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has attempted to regain certain ground lost to the influences of modernity and neo-orthodoxy.

SBC president Tom Elliff has been quoted as saying that Southern Baptists have ridded themselves of "parasites."

I do believe that theological liberalism is parasitic in nature. However, the current leadership is all too ready to form alliances with other denominations and para-church organizations which are far from orthodox in doctrine.

Cases in point: the Promise Keepers and the recent Evangelicals and Catholics Together document.

Ecumenism, the denying of doctrine for the sake of external unity, is draining the life blood from American Evangelicals, and Southern Baptists in particular.

God help us when our leaders can share the platform with Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, and Charismatics and say each one truly represents Christianity!

For me, the subtle push toward "tearing down denominational walls" is just another form of neo-orthodoxy.

My greatest fear is that our leadership is gerrymandering the theological territory so as to stifle the voice of dissent.

Reform in the church is a long, laborious process which must be governed by genuine humility and a desire to embrace the whole counsel of God, not just selected portions.

Keith Powell, pastor
Oakcrest Church
Baton Rouge, LA

'SUBMIT' DOESN'T APPEAR

Editor:

The current hullabaloo over wives "submitting graciously" to husbands overlooks the fact that our Lord through Paul is teaching in Ephesians that all Christians are to submit "one to another" (Eph. 5:21).

This means we should put aside selfish desires and put our own security, happiness

and well-being in second place to that of others.

It is a shame that the amendment calling for mutual submission between wives and husbands was defeated when the SBC approved the addition of the family statement to The Baptist Faith and Message.

One-way submission of wives to husbands as indicated in the statement is clearly a misinterpretation, especially in light of the fact that the word "submit" in verse 22 does not appear in the Greek text.

Led astray by this translation error, opponents of the mutual submission amendment completely missed the point in Paul's teaching.

Dorothy Patterson, wife of the new SBC president, mistakenly claimed that the (nonexistent) "submit" in verse 22 overrides mutual submission in verse 21, and Adrian Rogers is himself confused when he argued that mutual submission is confusing because it contains the idea of Christ submitting to his church.

If he had not submitted by way of the cross, we would have no salvation.

Hugh W. Olds, Jr.
Alexandria, VA

IMB consultant to serve Mississippi, other states

MOBILE, Ala. — Gerald Burch, a veteran Southern Baptist missionary, is serving as an associate candidate consultant for Southern Baptists in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, who are considering God's call to overseas missionary service.

As part of a pilot project, he will follow up first-time inquiries about career missions and also work with churches and directors of missions to identify individuals contemplating missionary service.

Burch may be contacted by e-mail at gerald.burch@imb.org or by telephone at (334) 661-0327.

HOMEcomings

Bethany, Bay Springs: Aug. 16; 11 a.m., covered dish at noon, and 1 p.m.; Joe Lofton, guest speaker; Kimberly Brady, Bay Springs, singer; Eddie M. Brady, pastor.

D'Lo (Simpson): Aug. 23; 11 a.m.; dinner in fellowship hall; John Schoolar, Jackson, guest speaker; Robert Sones, pastor.

First Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg: Aug. 30; 10 a.m.; John C. Hilbun, former pastor, speaker; 11:30 a.m., dinner in

fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m., Paid In Full, guest singers; Tom Sumrall, pastor. **Franklin Creek, Pascagoula:** Aug. 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Zeno Wells, guest speaker; covered dish lunch; afternoon singing; Greg Foster, pastor.

Oak Grove, Shubuta: Aug. 16; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish in fellowship hall at noon; Kevin Ivy, pastor, speaker; Mark and Pam Giles, guest singers.

Paul, Scobey: Aug. 23; 11 a.m., worship; Truman Scarborough, guest speaker; lunch at noon; and 1 p.m. singing with the Southern Gospel Tones as guest singers; Donnie Bain, pastor.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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Annuity Board plans change of administrators

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — The Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention is contracting with Kirke-Van Orsdel of West Des Moines, Iowa, to take over administrative services for its self-funded medical, group dental, and long-term disability plans. The current administrative services only (ASO) arrangement with Prudential Insurance Company will be terminated in a three-step process that will be completed at the end of the year.

Life, accidental death and dismemberment, and personal accident coverages are not involved in the change.

Kirke-Van Orsdel, a division of Seabury & Smith, Inc., is more commonly known as KVI. With more than 1,500 employees including its subsidiaries and affiliate companies, KVI is one of America's largest administrators of health-care benefits. The firm serves more than 7 million participants employed by thousands of corporations and more than 300 association plans similar to the Annuity Board's programs. KVI processes some 400,000 claims a month. The Annuity Board is expected to add about 32,000 claims per month to the KVI workload.

Annuity Board assets nearing \$7 billion

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention met in San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 3-4 and received a series of record-setting financial and statistical reports from the agency's president, O. S. Hawkins.

In his report for the second quarter of 1998, Hawkins said total assets of the board stood at a new record high \$6.969 billion on June 30. Net income of \$626.2 million in the period January-June was the highest in history for the first half of a year.

Trustees also discussed a change in administrative services for the board's comprehensive medical, group dental, and long-term disability plans (see article at right).

The Annuity Board, with offices in Dallas, provides retirement, relief, and insurance ministries to Southern Baptist churches, institutions, ministers, missionaries, and other employees.

Jeffrey P. Billinger, treasurer and executive officer for financial and corporate services, reported that the board operated well within the approved budget. Total contributions of \$146.8 million to participant accounts in the first six months was a 4.8% increase over the first half of 1997, while benefit payments and withdrawals were \$167.2 million, a 4.2% increase over the first half of 1997.

There were 482 participants who had benefits established in the second quarter. A total of 28,514 were receiving annuity benefits and another 1,355 were receiving installment benefits at June 30.

Insurance premium income was virtually flat compared to 1997, while claims grew 3.3% compared to the 1997 record. The imbalance had been expected by trend analysis and resulted from a rise in medical costs, especially prescription drugs. Billinger said the program is meeting all claims needs.

The next rate study will be done in the last quarter to set medical rates for Jan. 1, 1999.

It was announced that the Annuity Board will move its administrative services only (ASO) contract from Prudential Insurance Company to Kirke-Van Orsdel

(KVI) in a three-step process to be completed at the end of 1998. The West Des Moines, Iowa, firm took over medical underwriting responsibilities on July 1, and will begin processing claims for the medical and dental plans on Sept. 1, 1998. The transfer of remaining administrative duties will occur on Jan. 1, 1999.

Hawkins said, "While this is a change administratively, we believe it will be accomplished with a minimum of inconvenience to our participants and will result in more efficient service. Prudential has worked with the Annuity Board since 1990, and now, by mutual agreement, the two parties have agreed to go our separate ways."

Each participant in an Annuity Board plan will receive information in a special mailing this month, said Douglas D. Day, managing director of Insurance Services.

Day said every participant in the indemnity medical plans will receive temporary identification cards and claim forms with directions for filing claims.

Permanent identification cards and updated benefit booklets will be issued at a later date. Participants in managed care plans (HMO and POS) are not affected at this time.

The Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention has provided \$658,000 for the Annuity Board relief ministry this year, an 18% increase over the first six months of 1997. These funds, all of which go for relief payments, were supplemented by \$203,000 from the Annuity Board's Retired Ministers' Support Fund.

In addition, the board's Adopt An Annuitant ministry

paid out \$1.2 million in \$75 per month supplements to annuitants whose regular benefits are small.

Richard M. Hart Jr., executive officer for Systems and Technology Services, briefed trustees on the Annuity Board's progress in preparation for the year 2000, a special project to determine that Annuity Board software systems are compliant with Year 2000 requirements.

The relief committee of the trustees considered 87 relief requests. They approved 33 two-year monthly grants, one one-year monthly grant, 19 two-year expense grants and one one-time grant.

Four applications were returned for additional information. Twenty-eight requests were declined for being outside guidelines.

Relief benefits are \$200 per month for individuals and \$265 per month for couples. One hundred recipients added to the Adopt An Annuitant roll in the first six months were approved, and two new Adopt An Annuitant gifts were approved.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

One of my fellow church members is always running down other people and saying hurtful things about church members. Since she lives next door to me, I would like for things to be different. What can I do?

Sometimes the only actions we can take are to turn the other cheek (Matt. 5:39), or shake the dust from our feet (Mark 6:11). After that, we just have to wait with patience for an opportunity to say a kind word. Three weeks ago, my mother died. As my brother and I went through some items in the back yard of her home, the next door neighbor came over to see what was going on. Now, this neighbor was one who never had anything good to say to my mother. We told her what had happened and she was deeply moved. For the next two days, she was as friendly as could be, and that gave us the opportunity to be friendly in return. It's difficult to understand why people act as they do, but you can be sure they are getting something from their behavior that they want or need. People act out and speak out about what is bothering them, but the actual reasons for such conduct can be difficult to discern. Your neighbor may be hurting and unable/unwilling to face it, so she projects her hurts onto others through harsh words. While you are waiting for an opening to talk kindly with her, pray that God will give you the right words. That is wisdom and maturity tied up in one package.

I plead with my husband to shut off the vulgarity and violence on television, but he only gets angry. How can I get through to him?

Men in general find the rougher things in life to be exciting at times, but they also typically like affection and encouragement from the people they love. Since he rebels when you confront him face-to-face about his TV habits, try the following three steps. First, remove yourself from his presence when he is watching the shows you find disturbing. Secondly, set an example by occupying yourself with constructive activities during this time period. Lastly, be alert for the times he is watching wholesome shows so you can view the shows together. Engage him by letting him know how much you enjoy spending such special times with him. You might offer his favorite beverage or snack, as a sign of how much fun it is to be together while watching wholesome shows. If he is even casually observant, he will surely get the picture. The wise couple seeks to understand each other and find ways to express heartfelt convictions in a manner that says, "I love you." Creativity in this area is essential to the process of building a marital relationship that is not threatened by TV, hobbies, children, work, or anything else.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Pay attention to the scripture

2 Peter 1:12-21

By William H. Sims, III

Billy Graham tells how, during darkest days of the Second World War, Winston Churchill confronted him with this question: "Young man, do you have any hope for the world?" Taking the Bible from his pocket, Billy Graham responded, "Yes, Mr. Prime Minister, this book is full of hope." After reading some passages to him, he was told by Churchill, "Thank you. You have given an old man a renewal of faith for the future."

We are living in a paradoxical day for the Bible. There are now more than three hundred published English versions of the Bible and the Bible is still

one of the nation's best sellers. Yet, swayed by the voice of critics, many Christians are no longer convinced that the Bible is God's revealed word. Peter's words of exhortation calls every believer to return to the truths of God's Holy WORD!

Remember truth (1:12-15). Every day, we are to remind ourselves of the truths from God's word. Daily reminders may come from our pastor, Sunday School teachers, or even a fine Christian book. Peter reminded his audience of the need for spiritual progress, and that there was no excuse for immoral behavior. Every believer needs

someone who is strong and firm reminding them of the knowledge of God's Word. This action will keep our faith active and alert for any signs of danger. Whatever age we are spiritually, we need to be attentive to the voice of God.

Sims

Reflections of events (1:16-18).

The truths which Peter had shared with his readers were confirmed by what he had seen and heard. The term "cunningly devised fables" meant cleverly developed myths. Peter was attacking fanciful stories of heretics. The Gnostics were involved with mystical tales concerning the person of Jesus Christ. Peter denied this myth and gave the facts of Jesus' life. Whatever we hear, if the fact is not grounded in scripture, walk away. I am so thankful for my pastor, R. A. Boston, teaching me truth, not

fiction. The word "coming" in v. 16 referred to the second coming of Christ. Even though untruth was being told, Peter continued proclaiming the truth — Jesus is coming again!

Rely on the Word (1:19-20). Peter's authority for sharing the gospel was based on more than personal experience. Peter knew the prophecies of scripture. This section declared the absolute validity of Old Testament prophecy. This is the longest statement concerning the inspiration of scripture. Carefully read II. Timothy 3:16. Every time we proclaim the truths of God, we must remember they are not clever tales, but eyewitness accounts.

Refreshing inspiration (1:21). Peter stated that no prophecy of Scripture came from human interpretation. All Scripture is of divine origin. Men were "moved," or carried along by the Holy Spirit in pro-

claiming God's Word. God's Holy Word is of divine origin, and we must be very careful in interpretation of Scripture. As a pastor, I am thankful for Union University, New Orleans Seminary, schools where I heard the truthful interpretation of Holy Scripture. Professors like David Irby, Bob Agee, Billy Simmons and Harold Bryson, these men were truly aware of the divine origin of scripture.

As we teach, preach, and sing God's Holy Word, always keep in mind we are telling the wonderful story. When we draw close to God who gave this Book and begin to follow the Christ who is proclaimed in this Book, we will be able to say with the Psalmist, "Thank God for his WORD. For it is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Thank God for his Holy WORD.

Sims is pastor of First Church, Pontotoc.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Think before you speak

Proverbs 11:12; 12:18; 13:3; 15:1-2, 23, 28; 16:24; 17:28; 21:23; 26:21, 28

By Nancie E. Simmons

A little boy was having trouble saying things in anger. The boy's father gave him a hammer and some nails and told him every time he wanted to get angry and say mean words, to go outside and hammer a nail into the fence in the back yard. So the boy did as he was told daily, until he did not have to hammer any nails into the fence for a whole day. His father congratulated him on his hard work. Then the boy's father told him to remove a nail for every day that passed without him losing his temper. The boy set about this new task. When the last nail was removed,

the boy told his father of his accomplishment. The father walked with the boy into the back yard, looked at all the nail holes and said, "the things we say in anger are like the nails that pierced this wood. They are sharp going in, and even when we apologize and remove the nails, the holes will always remain."

Harmful words (26:21,28). The tongue can be used as a sharp sword that causes terrible pain. We sometimes should almost have to have a license to use it! We all know people in this world who always say negative things and enjoy arguing. These people only add "fuel to

the fire of strife" and it is hard to have a conversation with them. We must be careful in the way that we react to them.

We all have our favorite people with whom we love to talk and have fun. There are other people who are not our favorites that we also know. When deal-

ing with those whom we do not like we must be careful not to flatter them unnecessarily to cover up our real feelings. On the other hand we should not be rude either, but be honest because syrupy politeness would be lying.

Hushed words (11:12; 13:3; 17:28; 21:23). The old saying "if you don't have something good to say, then don't say anything at all" is a good rule of thumb to remember. Words that come spilling out without thought or control can not be erased from memory once they are spoken.

In Proverbs it says, if we "guard our lips we guard our life," and if we speak without thought then we will "come to ruin."

The situations where words get out of hand the most are when people are angry. Many children, husbands, and wives say things in the heat of the moment that they do not really mean. Remember, once these words are spoken, they can never be taken back and they can ruin relationships.

Harmonizing words (15: 1-2, 28). The way that you respond to someone can make a difference in the outcome of a disagreement. Responding to harsh words with harsh words will only add to the argument. On the other hand, responding to harsh words with kind words will help to bring an argument to an end. As it says in Proverbs, "a gentle answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger."

Healing words (12:18; 15:23;

16:24). Our words give away what our heart is like and who we are trusting. What we say is also a witness to the non-Christians we know and meet. If a non-Christian sees that we gossip and tear down others, then what do they see that is so different? If we have Jesus in our hearts, we should talk differently.

Words are not all bad. Sometimes the right words at the right time will completely turn around a negative situation. Some people know just when to say the right things and they are wisely quiet until that moment. When we hear affirming words, they can pump us up and give us the strength needed to carry out the hard task we are facing. Positive words are strong enough to even change the course of our life. Words are so powerful!

Simmons teaches music at Harper McCaughan Elementary and is a member of First Church, Gulfport.

LIFE AND WORK

True or false messengers?

Jeremiah 28:1-2, 5-13, 15-17

By Kevin Hand

The confrontation was more intense than a showdown at the O.K. corral, and things were far from okay. The people of Judah were in a crisis situation and they needed to hear a word from the Lord. Two prophets, Jeremiah and Hananiah, both claimed to have God's message. However, the prophets disagreed, their prophecies were conflicting, and the people were forced to decide which man and message was true and which was false.

Jeremiah stood alone against false prophets who spoke what the people wanted to hear. They presented themselves as the true spokesmen for God who followed in the tradition of Isaiah by promising deliverance for Judah.

The false prophets also presented themselves as true patriots who called for the people to defend themselves against the Babylonians. They accused Jeremiah of being not only a false prophet of little faith but also a traitor who called the people to surrender to pagan Babylon.

In turbulent times, many people arise with messages promising security. Some of these messengers claim to be messengers from God. Some are true messengers who speak God's truth, but others are false messengers who deceive many people.

Since not everyone who claims to speak for God is a true messenger, God's people must be able to tell the difference between the real and the

fake. We must use discernment in deciding which messengers to believe, and what messages to receive. Discernment is like spiritual radar. It helps us detect the unseen and spot the imposters.

This week's lesson is aimed at helping us develop our sense of spiritual discernment. As a result, we will reject false messengers who claim to speak for God and heed true messengers.

Popular or true? (vv. 1-2). Hananiah confronted Jeremiah in the temple in front of the priests and the people. Hananiah declared that the Lord had promised to break the yoke of the king of Babylon. The false prophets told the people what they wanted to hear.

As Christians, we should not allow the popularity of a message or messenger to overshadow the central issue—truth. Who would trust a doctor who was dishonest with

patients about their true condition and told them only what they wanted to hear?

Pleasing or proven? (vv. 5-9). Jeremiah said "amen" to Hananiah's prediction. Perhaps Jeremiah was being sarcastic or maybe he wished the prediction were true. Nevertheless, he reminded Hananiah and the people that the truth of past prophecies was shown by whether or not they came true.

Because a message is pleasing does not ensure that it is true. Believers must realize that sometimes only time will tell whether a message proves to be true.

Confident or credible (vv. 10-13). Hananiah broke the wooden yoke on Jeremiah's neck and promised that God would break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar from the necks of the nations. Jeremiah, however, told Hananiah that the broken wooden yoke would be replaced with one of iron.

We should never confuse a prophet's confidence in delivering his message with the

credibility of the message itself. It is possible that some false prophets may be sincere, but sincerely wrong.

Persuasive or authentic? (vv.15-17). Jeremiah pronounced divine judgment on Hananiah because he had persuaded the people to believe lies. God said Hananiah would die that very year for deceiving the people. Hananiah died that year.

People beware. God will judge deceptive messengers who persuade people to rebel against him. The people who believe the messengers' lies are also in danger of judgment.

Therefore, be cautious when people say, "God told me" or "Thus says the Lord." We must test the spirits to see whether they are from God (1 Jn.4:1). Being rooted in God's Word is the best defense against being deceived by false messengers. If we know what Scripture says, we can quickly judge if the message is true.

Hand is pastor of First Church, Magee.

Speaker: shame at center of dysfunctions

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP) — Shame, the feeling people have that something is intrinsically wrong with them, is at the root of family dysfunction passed down from one generation to the next, according to a consultant in family life and relationship issues.

Participants in Discipleship and Family Week at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center learned family dynamics can emerge in settings outside the family, including church. "Many people who leave the ministry do not understand

how hurtful family patterns can impact them as adults," said Kay Moore, a writer, editor, and conference leader from Richmond, Va., during the July 18-24 sessions.

Moore, who conducts support-group training for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, said examining family dynamics is not an exercise in family bashing or parent-bashing.

"We examine our family of origin to gain insights," she observed. "Most everyone, if they are honest with themselves, will say they have traits from previous generations that they would like to change."

Moore said people confuse shame with guilt, but "shame is about who we are; guilt is about what we have done."

The sources of shame can be varied, she pointed out.

"A child may feel shame for a parent's behavior, such as

alcoholism," she said. They may be emotionally enmeshed with a parent to the point of almost being one person.

"Dysfunctional family roles are a very subtle thing," Moore observed. "Children do not usually know consciously what role they have. In a healthy family, members are free to choose the roles they have. In a dysfunctional family, roles are assigned, and then the person is blamed for their behavior."

"Even though the pain from the past can't be erased," Moore said, "out of those unhealthy patterns, strengths can develop, and we can become channels of blessing for other people."

"We are all sinners. We always have things we can improve. We can make a mid-course correction."

Discipleship and Family Week was sponsored by LifeWay's discipleship and family division.

Youth World Conference draws 7,000 people

HOUSTON (BP)—The outside Houston heat was nothing compared to that generated by the more than 7,000 jubilant young people from 81 countries who packed the Georgia R. Brown Convention Center for the opening of the 13th Baptist Youth World Conference.

This July 22-26 conference, held every five years, is sponsored by the youth department of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA).

Featured speaker Stephen Gaukroger, pastor of Gold Hill Baptist Church, Buckinghamshire, England, author and frequent Bible teacher in the United Kingdom and abroad.

He developed the theme for the opening session, "Now is the time to tell our world."

"The Bible contains the answers to serious

questions — racism in the church, validity of the Bible, hypocrisy among Christians, sexual abstinence — but Christians cannot share the answers with those seeking them because they do not know the Bible," he said.

Along with Gaukroger, young people were encouraged by Ron Bobo, president of the BWA youth department, who told them to "put aside your prejudices and allow the Lord to do a new thing in you this week."

Underlining the evangelistic emphasis of the evening, Nilson Farini, president of the BWA, reminded the young people they were in the space capital of the world, the place that sent out the first astronaut. "May God send astronaut evangelists from here to all the world."

CrossSeekers gets new leader, production resources

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — CrossSeekers, a collegiate discipleship movement already involving thousands of students across America, has a new team leader and a variety of new resources in production.

Scott Allen, a seven-year veteran of National Student Ministry (NSM) of LifeWay Christian Resources, the Southern Baptist entity which launched CrossSeekers last summer, took over the leadership role for the initiative July 27.

He replaces Brad Gray who recently announced he will resign, effective Aug. 31, to complete his doctorate and serve as a teaching assistant at Vanderbilt University in Nashville.

More than 5,500 collegians across the country already have signed the six-point CrossSeekers Covenant, committing to a lifestyle of integrity, spiritual growth, an authentic and consistent witness, service, purity, and Christlike relationships.

Several thousand more are expected to attend the first "Celebration of the Covenant" Sept. 4-6 at the New Orleans Convention Center.

A number of widely known Christian speakers and artists such as Anne Graham Lotz, Steven Curtis Chapman, and Jars of Clay will be featured at the event.

In addition to the grassroots movement and celebration, the biblical message of CrossSeekers also will be spread through a variety of new materials being produced by NSM. Five such resources are expected to be available for purchase at the Celebration of the Covenant in New Orleans:

1) "CrossSeekers: Discipleship Covenant for a New Generation," by Henry and Richard Blackaby, includes Bible studies on the six covenant points brought to life in a practical, storytelling format.

A copy of the book will be given to all those who register for the New Orleans event.

2) "CrossSeekers: Covenant Living, Leader's Guide." The definitive CrossSeekers resource, this booklet describes what the initiative is all about, how to involve students and how to incorporate it into existing on-campus or church-related ministries to collegians.

3) "CrossSeekers: Champions Handbook," a handbook for students who choose to lead a CrossSeekers Covenant Group on their campus or in their home church.

4) "Followology@Collegiate Ministry: Following Jesus in the Real World," by Allen Jackson, an informal, interactive study that teaches students how to follow Christ in their daily lives.

5) "Transitions: Preparing for College," compiled by Art Herron. Designed for high school juniors and seniors and their parents, this practical resource includes information about the admissions process, financial aid, loans and scholarships, lifestyle changes, spiritual development and more.

A CrossSeekers compact disc featuring several Christian artists and including the new CrossSeekers theme song by MercyMe also will be available at the event.

In addition, the book, "CrossSeekers: Transparent Living, Living a Life of Integrity" by Rod Handley, chief operating officer of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is scheduled for release in November 1998, and three other titles related to Christlike relationships, purity and spiritual growth are in development.

For more information about CrossSeekers or to register for the New Orleans celebration, call 1-888-CROSS98 or visit the initiative's Internet site, www.crossseekers.org.

Bibliocipher

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WHLM IZQF: YPZLYX-UZUF

Clue: M = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six Forty One.

Praying for Mississippi



Supporters of Mission Mississippi gathered July 23 in the Baptist Building chapel in Jackson for fellowship and prayer on behalf of reconciliation with the body of Christ in Mississippi. The multi-racial, multi-denominational group meets monthly for breakfast in locations around the capitol city, and also sponsors a number of other annual events including picnics and Mississippi Coliseum rallies to bring Christians in the state together under the banner of reconciliation. For more information, contact Mission Mississippi at P. O. Box 22655, Jackson, MS 39225. Telephone: (601) 353-6477. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)